

# **Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)**

**Regular Meeting – Thursday June 13, 2013 – 12:00 Noon**

**Town Manager's Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall**

## **MINUTES**

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 12:00 P.M.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required). - Chris Lyons, Mark Trahan, Gioia Zack, Greg Bedula, Doug Sacks, Betty Rosania, Joan Hughes, Lucas Watson, Dorcas McHugh, Ken Rizzio, Tony Martino, Jeff Bridges-Town Manager, Peter Gillespie-Director of Planning and Economic Development, Denise Bradley-Assistant Planner, Melanie Goodin-Chamber of Commerce.
3. Old Business
  - a. Vacant Property Updates –
    - 76 Cumberland Ave. bldg. permit pending
    - 1000 Silas Deane Highway - met w owner, someone interested in retail proposal, potential traffic light
    - 245 Main
    - 1178 Silas Deane Highway
    - Jordan Lane Former Convalescent Home
    - 295 Ridge Road
    - 981 Silas Dean Highway
  - b. Tourism Website-Up and running
  - c. Grants
    1. Vibrant Communities Grant – Masonic Building and Comstock Ferre -Met with consultant CME and stakeholders on June 11th to discuss the draft plan. A public meeting has been tentatively been set for Wednesday July 10th to present the plan. Draft recieved illustrations, Pro formas. 245 Main Street under contract and going to the Zoning Board of Appeals on June 24th for a use variance to permit a single family home in a comercial zone, then the Historic District Commission and the planning and zoning commission for site plan review. A brief discussion ensued and Mark Trahan made a motion to authorize a letter of support for the use variance from commercial to residential. Betty Rosania seconded the motion.
    2. Main Street Investment Fund Grant - Waiting for announcement.
    3. 2013 STEAP Grant-Waiting for announcement.
    4. CT Grown Joint Venture Program
    5. Heritage Interpretive Trail - HFPG
    6. State Bond Commission - \$500,000 Park and intersection upgrade announcement.
  - d. Farmer's Market - Doug Sacks noted that the weather wasn't in their favor today but they don't plan on canceling unless there is lightning or thunderstorms. Pietro's Pizza and Family Chiropractic will take advantage of the free business booth space. Questions arose regarding canceling the Thursday July 4th Market. The new cookbooks are available for \$10.00.
4. New Business
  - a. Business Visitations-Dorcas McHugh completed a visitation to 180 Nutrition
  - b. Breakfast Meeting - Resources available to use the Country Club. Schedule Marketing Sub-Committee to discuss details.

- c. Façade Improvement Program Status Report and Discussion of Eligibility Policy – Peter Gillespie reported that \$129,000 is still available in the fund. 5 properties are ready to close but a few have been dragging out. Letters will be sent to the recipients asking them to indicate their current intentions. The Sub-Committee will be revisiting the loan documentation to see if revisions need to be made to update the language.
5. Other Business
6. Reports
  - Town Manager's Report- Jeff Bridges reported on the following:
    - Budget passed
    - Public improvements moving forward.
    - Ramped up pavement program
    - WHS projected \$4 million in additional on PCB remediation & loss of geothermal system.
  - Town Council Liaison's Report – No report was given.
  - Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report -Peter Gillespie reported on the highlights of the May meeting including 105 Marsh Street, 295 Ridge Road and the Goff Brook Shops.
  - Tourism Commission Liaison's Report - Dorcas McHugh noted that the meeting has been rescheduled to next Tuesday. New rack cards, ad in AAA Journeys and new website launch.
  - Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report- No report was given.
  - Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report - Melanie Goodin reported on the BAH at Jay's Restaurant, Wethersfield Night at the New Britain Rock Cats Game and Cornfest planning.
  - Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report - Nothing additional to report.
7. Chairman's Report – Chris Lyons asked the EDIC members to submit updated contact information and noted that the end of terms is coming up in July and that nominations for new chair and vice chair will be sought.
8. Sub-Committee Reports
  - Marketing and Communications - Meeting scheduled for Friday, June 21st at 9:00 A.M.
9. Minutes – May 9, 2013 Meeting - Betty Rosania made a motion to approve the minutes. Dorcas McHugh seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
10. Next Meeting – July 11, 2013
11. Correspondence
12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:14 P.M.